

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 40-59 and 87-126 are pending in the application. Claims 40, 87, 92, 99, 105, 113 and 121, which are independent, have been amended and thereby obviate the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification, specifically pages 10-14. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

A Terminal Disclaimer has been filed, hereby obviating the Double Patenting rejection.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 40-42, 44, 45, 57, 58, 87, 88, 90-95, 99, 100, 102, 104-106, 108, 112-114, 116, 117, 120-122, 124 and 126 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,815,145 to Mathews, III (hereinafter, merely “Mathews”).

Claims 43, 46-52, 59, 89, 96-98, 101, 103, 107, 109, 110, 115, 118, 123 and 125 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Mathews in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,907,323 to Lawler et al. (hereinafter, merely “Lawler”).

Claims 53-56, 111 and 119 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Mathews in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,600,364 to Hendricks et al. (hereinafter, merely “Hendricks”).

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Applicants respectfully submit Mathews is not prior art since the U.S. filing date of August 21, 1995 is after Applicants’ foreign priority date of July 20, 1995.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Mathews is disqualified as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and thus all of the outstanding rejections based upon Mathews in the above-noted Office Action are overcome.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

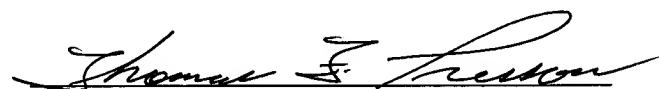
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By:



Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800